

## **REMARKS**

### **Applicant's Election**

In response to the Office Action mailed Oct. 11, 2006, the applicant elects to pursue claims 29, 70, 75, and 93-98 (Group I) for prosecution on the merits.

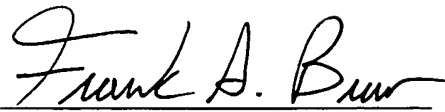
Accordingly, the applicant hereby cancels claims 72 and 74 (Group II) and claims 91 and 100 (Group III) without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant notes that the Examiner has withdrawn from consideration claims 101 and 102, but did not comment on claim 103.

Therefore, claim 103 remains in the application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner provide some comment on claim 103 in the next Office Action.

By this response, claims 72 and 74 (Group II) and claims 91 and 100 (Group III) have been cancelled without prejudice to presenting these claims in a divisional or continuation application. In addition, the election of claims 29, 70, 75, and 93-98 (Group I) is made with traverse, and applicant reserves the right to reintroduce claims 72 and 74 (Group II) and 91 and 100 (Group III) in original or amended form, in view of the later prosecution of this application. Specifically, it is applicant's position that the claimed inventions are not independent under MPEP § 802.01, that they are related, and that search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Applicant requests consideration of the pending claims for allowance.

Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply to expire one (1) month from the Oct. 11, 2006 mailing date. Therefore, a two (2) month extension of time is believed necessary for this response, and a corresponding petition for extension of time is attached. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be required for this paper to Deposit Account Number 13-3250, Order No. 36314-00500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank A. Bruno". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Frank A. Bruno  
Reg. No. 46,583

December 18, 2006

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP  
1 Chase Manhattan Plaza  
New York, NY 10005-1413  
(212) 530-5000 / (212) 530-5219 (facsimile)

NY2:#4720837